

October Climate Narrative Summary  
By William D Marino

The cool wet weather of late September continued into October. This was the first time since July and August of 2004 that Southwest Lower Michigan has had two consecutive months with below normal temperatures.

October began with a major storm that produced very heavy rainfall west of Lansing. Rainfall was 1 to 3 inches with this storm. Daily rainfall records were broken at Muskegon and Grand Rapids with both stations having over 2 inches of rain. The warmest weather of the month followed this storm. Temperatures rose well into the 70°s on both the 3rd and the 4th. On the 4th the Grand Rapids Water Plant had a high of 83°. This was the warmest recorded temperature in Southwest Lower Michigan for October. All of the warm weather set the stage for the only time in October that there were severe thunderstorms in Southwest Lower Michigan.

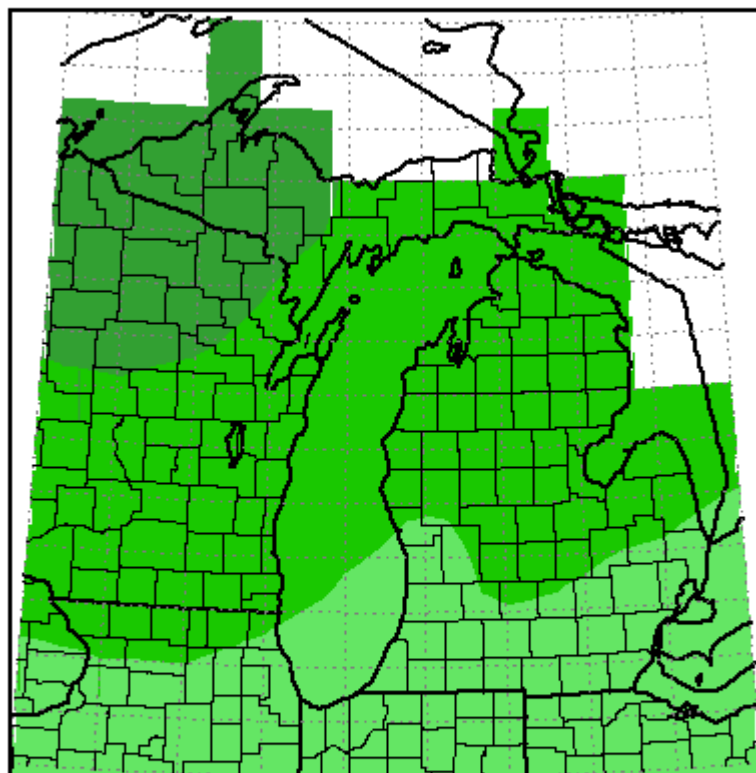
Temperatures from the 5th on through the rest of the month were mostly below normal. A record early snowfall occurred over most of Southwest Lower Michigan from the 12th through the 13th. Parts of Barry County had as much as 8 inches of snow from this storm. This also brought the first general freeze across Southwest Lower Michigan. There was a brief warm-up on the 30th, when the afternoon temperatures rose from near freezing in the morning to the upper sixties at almost all reporting stations in Southwest Lower Michigan by afternoon. Even stations near Lake Michigan had highs near 70° on the 30th. That burst of warmth was quickly followed by a strong cold front early in the morning on the 31st. By that afternoon temperatures had fallen into the 40°s across the area.

There were several other storms during the month. One storm system ran from the 16th through the 19th and another from the 21st through the 23rd. Both systems brought between a half inch and an inch of rain to Southwest Lower Michigan. The storm that brought the warm temperatures on the 30th did not bring any significant rain but it did bring gusty winds. The South Haven light house reported a wind gust to 56 MPH for the highest reported wind gust in Southwest Lower Michigan for the day.

**October 2006**

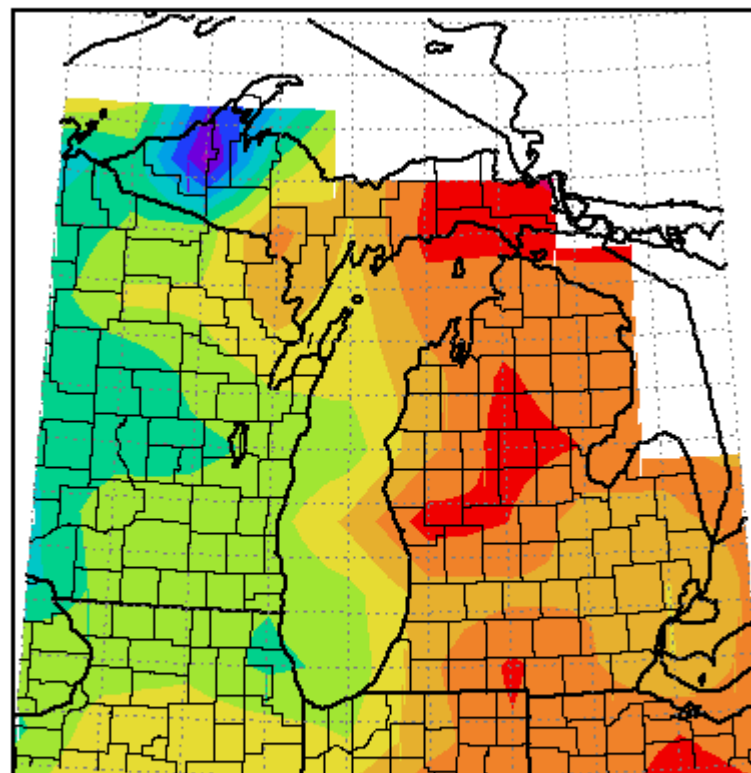
Site	Temperature	Precipitation	Snowfall
Grand Rapids	47.2° F	5.02 Inches	2.1 Inches
<i>Normal</i>	49.9° F	2.80 Inches	0.6 Inches
Lansing	46.4° F	2.95 Inches	1.5 Inches
<i>Normal</i>	49.2° F	2.29 Inches	0.4 Inches
Muskegon	47.3° F	5.05 Inches	0.2 Inches
<i>Normal</i>	49.7° F	2.80 Inches	0.4 Inches

Average Temperature in Degrees F  
October 1, 2006 to October 31, 2006



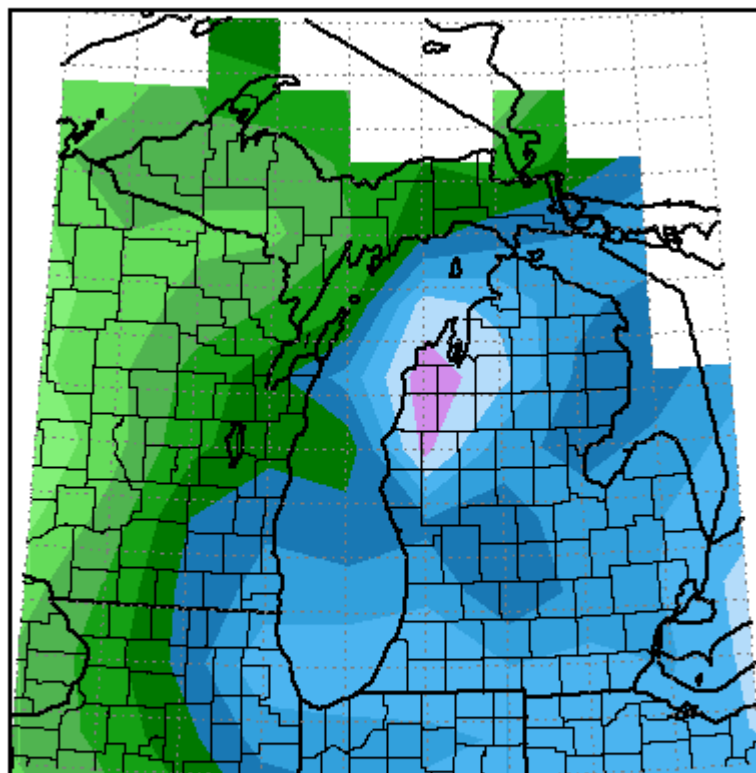
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Illinois State Water Survey  
Champaign, Illinois

Average Temperature Departure from Mean in Degrees F  
October 1, 2006 to October 31, 2006



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**Total Precipitation in Inches  
October 1, 2006 to October 31, 2006**

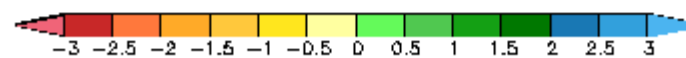
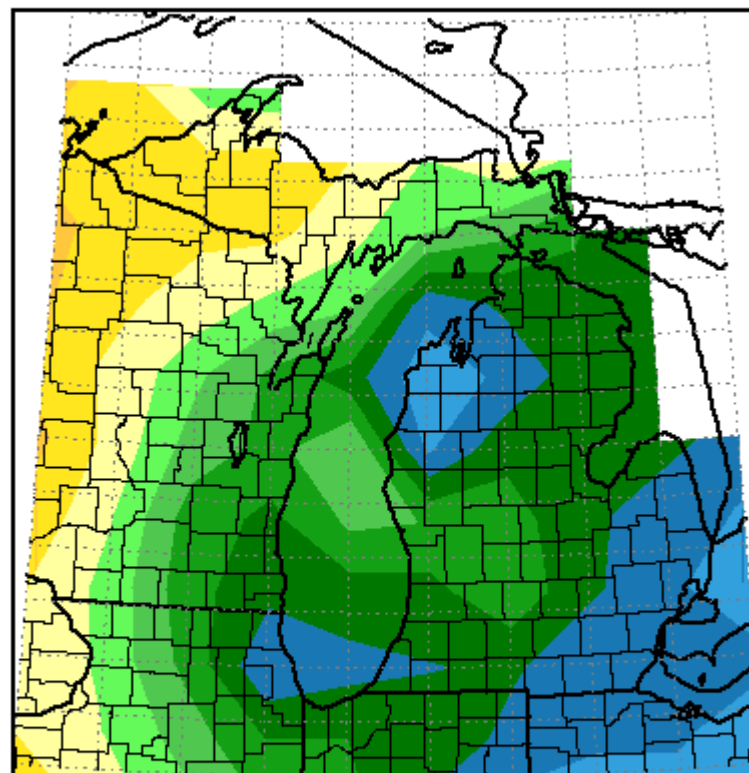


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**Total Precipitation Departure from Mean in Inches  
October 1, 2006 to October 31, 2006**

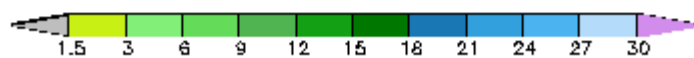
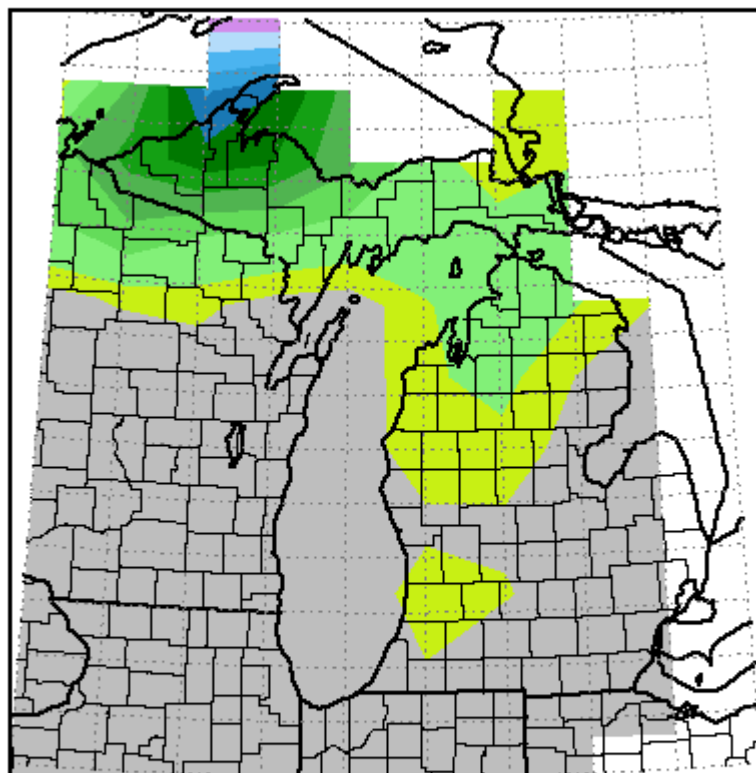


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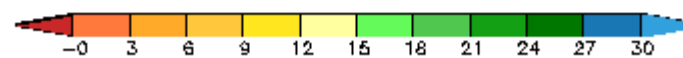
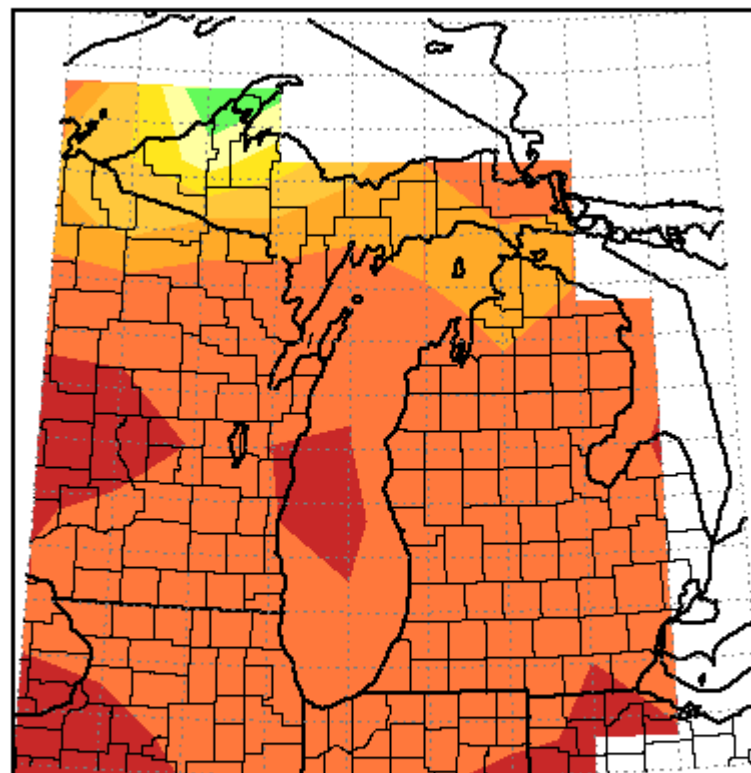
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**Total Snowfall in Inches**  
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